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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Lubomir D. Bourdev, et al. Art Unit : 2672  
Serial No. : 09/447,024 Examiner : Scott Wallace  
Filed : November 22, 1999  
Title : PROCESSING COMPLEX REGIONS OF ILLUSTRATION ARTWORK

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as indicated below.

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In the claims:

Technology Center 2600

Please amend claims 1-3, 6, and 11-16 as follows:

1. (Amended) A computer-based method of processing a computer graphics illustration that includes one or more pieces of artwork, the method comprising:

mapping outlines of at least one of the pieces of artwork onto a grid of cells;

determining the total number of outlines of pieces of artwork that map to a cell of the grid; and

identifying the cell as a complex region based on the total number of outlines that map to the cell.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying pieces of artwork to include in an illustration flattening process based on the identification of the complex region.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the illustration flattening process comprises a process for producing a planar map of the illustration.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein identifying artwork comprises excluding artwork classified as entirely inside the complex region.

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